

Unit 4, Reading 3, Unsustainable Development and the Mayan Civilization, p. 195
Answers from Laura

Getting a first idea the article

- 2 Why/how was agriculture so significant for the environment?
- 3 What was this major social development?
- 6 What made this agricultural system complex?
- 7 What caused the Mayans to demand too much from their agricultural system? OR How did the Mayan agricultural system react to these demands?
- 9 Why/how is the collapse of the Mayan civilization an example of unsustainable development?

While You Read

Environmentally significant

It was bad for the environment; disruption; disturbing

Brought about a major social development

The first settled societies

Agriculture ---- food for non-producing consumers ---- settled societies

A complex agricultural system

1. They cleared the tropical vegetation
2. They made extensive use of terracing
3. They constructed extensive systems . . . of draining ditches
4. Used the material . . . food crops could be grown

The process

When the Mayans demanded . . . began to collapse

Water levels rose

Flooding the raised fields

Reducing the harvest still further

Unsustainable development

However, the demands of this ever expanding society outgrew the ability of the altered environment to support it.

Main idea check

3,2,4,1 8,7,5,9,6

A closer look

1. (Agriculture developed when humans domesticated plants and animals) D,A,C,B
2. (Agriculture developed when humans domesticated plants and animals) E,A,C,B,D
3. A; C; D
4. A,G,D B,H E,C F

Vocabulary study: Synonyms

1. Domesticated
2. Intervene
3. Consumers
4. Immense
5. Alternation
6. Terracing
7. Ditch
8. Flooding
9. Strain
10. thereby
11. Skeletons
12. Abandon
13. Outgrow
14. Prove
15. Long-term

Vocabulary study: Words in context

1. Collapsed
2. Deteriorated
3. Flourished
4. Perspective
5. Intensified
6. Disrupt
7. Fossil fuels
8. Susceptible to
9. Withstand
10. Harvests